



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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REMARKS OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT BLAIR EWING AT THE CEREMONY HONORING THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Seventeen days ago we came together to remember the thousands who met their untimely end at the hands of a band of evil assassins. Today we convene to honor the heroic acts of the brave men and women who risked their lives to aid the victims of this national tragedy.

These men and women are true heroes. In the face of great danger, whose dimensions were unknown, they rushed to help, showing the best of humanity – courage, compassion, and sacrifice for others. It was moving and inspiring to see our world-famous Urban Search and Rescue Team in action, swiftly summoned to the disaster at the Pentagon and working tirelessly for seven consecutive days. It was inspiring also to see our fire and rescue personnel who joined quickly in the life-threatening, exhausting efforts at the World Trade Center. And there were our Fire and Rescue units who covered for their D.C. and Arlington brothers and sisters – and the many Fire and Rescue volunteers who came in to fully staff our stations during the crisis.

Today we honor them, and we honor all of our public safety workers – police, fire and rescue, medical personnel – both career and volunteer. Think for a moment about that term – *public safety workers*. These are the people who, day in and day out, place themselves in harm's way so that the community will be secure. In New York City more than 300 public safety workers gave their lives to this cause. Many of our own public safety workers were at very great risk. Fortunately they will all be here to protect the community at the time of future crises, whether large or small.

Let us note also that the example of our public safety workers has awakened the nation to the extraordinary dedication of public servants of all kinds. People are recognizing that government workers labor each day on behalf of the public. For this, the public is genuinely grateful.

Shakespeare said, "This above all: to thine own self be true." Our public safety workers have indeed been true to themselves, to their calling, and to our expectations. It is a privilege for the members of the County Council to join today with the County Executive and all of Montgomery County in celebrating your service to the community. Our hearts, our prayers, and our everlasting thanks will be with you always. # # #

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